

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 H-03 DRC-01

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P 261137Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2351

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0507

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIN EAID PFOR IBRD GH

SUBJ: GHANA DEBT: SECOND ROUND NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 15319 B. STATE 17063 C. STATE 16993

D. LONDON 1186

1. SUMMARY - UKHICOM CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES BETWEEN UK AND GOG ON DEBT MEETINGS. APPARENTLY ONLY OUTSTANDING PROBLEM AT PRESENT IS SITE OF PRELIMINARY TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTE REFTELS B THROUGH D RECEIVED THIS MORNING. APPROACH TO UKHICOM PURSUANT REFTEL A MADE LAST NIGHT. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR'S TALK CONSONANT WITH SUBSTANCE OTHER REFTELS. TALK ALSO CONFIRMS RECEIPT UK MESSAGE BY GOG AND REPORTS REPLY.

3. PURSUANT SUGGESTION PARA 4 REFTEL A, I HAD TALK WITH UKHICOM STANLEY LAST NIGHT. NOT ONLY DID I WISH BRING HIM
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UP TO DATE PER REFTEL, BUT HE LEAVING SUNDAY FOR LONDON

AND LEAVE AND HENCE WILL BE TALKING WITH FCO EARLY NEXT WEEK.

4. STANLEY TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED YESTERDAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ASHLEY-LASSEN RE NEXT ROUND, UK PROPOSAL SUMMARIZED CREDITORS' POSITION AND SUGGESTED TALKS IN LONDON ABOUT FEBRUARY 4 AND FINAL MEETING IN ROME FEBRUARY 27. ASHLEY-LASSEN HAS RESPONDED THAT GOG CONTINUES DESIROUS PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS. HE SUGGESTED GENEVA AS SITE OF TALKS INSTEAD OF LONDON, SINCE HE HAD OTHER BUSINESS WHICH HE WISHED CONDUCT IN SWITZERLAND.

5. WHILE STANLEY PLEASED THAT GOG HAD RESPONDED CONSTRUCTIVELY TO DEMARCHE, HE WAS ANNOYED THAT THEY HAD MODIFIED THEIR PREVIOUS (APPARENT) WILLINGNESS MEET IN LONDON. HE THINKS THERE SOME POSSIBILITY THAT ASHLEY-LASSEN WILL RETURN TO LONDON SITE IF PRESSED HARD.

6. COMMENT: I SHARE DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE KEEP UP MOMENTUM, AS I HAVE REPORTED IN VARIOUS RECENT TELEGRAMS, AND THINK THAT PRESENT FORMULA, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT INVOLVES IBRD, IS VERY HOPEFUL. GOG ATTITUDE CLEARLY REFLECTS DESIRE TO PROCEED EXPRESSED TO ME IN PERSONAL TALK WITH CHAIRMAN NRC (ACCRA 442 NOTAL). OBVIOUSLY, I HOPE LAST MINUTE QUESTION OF LONDON VERSUS GENEVA WILL NOT UPSET SCHEDULE. FINALLY, WHILE I AM SURE THERE ARE SOUND REASONS LEADING TO DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL DELAY FINAL CEREMONY, I WOULD HOPE WE COULD BE FLEXIBLE ON THAT MATTER. IF PRELIMINARY MEETING IS FRUITFUL, THE SOONER WE TIE THIS QUESTION DOWN THE BETTER OFF EVERYONE WILL BE. HADSEL

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